

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.111 dated November 17, 2003
Response to July 16, 2003 Office Action
Appln. No. 09/880,857

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the application. No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this Amendment.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error. The claims have been amended to improve their language. Claim 13 finds support at page 17, lines 6-9 of the specification.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings for not including a reference to the "network bridge 100." Figure 2 has been amended to refer to the "network bridge 100."

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objects to the specification as reciting "PLC modem 70" at pages 2-5, which does not correspond to Figure 1. Figure 1 has been amended to correspond to the specification, thereby obviating this objection.

Claim Objections

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Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to as containing informalities. Claim 1 has been amended to be free of informalities.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claim 6 and its dependent claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants traverse.

The Examiner asserts that the term "the network" is unclear. Claim 6 has been amended to replace the phrase "on the network" with "between the telephone line network and the power line network," thereby clarifying the meaning of the phrase. As a result, claim 6 is clear, definite and has full antecedent basis. Claims dependent upon claim 6 are patentable for at least the above reasons.

This rejection is accordingly overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejections Based on the Applicants' Disclosure

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Applicants' disclosure. Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Applicants' disclosure in view of Bullock (U.S. Patent 6,107,912). Claims 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Applicants' disclosure in view of Sanderson (U.S. Patent 6,040,759). Applicants

traverse.

The Applicants' Disclosure is not Prior Art without an Admission

The Applicant's own disclosure cannot be used to allege prior art without an admission.

The inability to utilize the disclosure without an admission as to prior art is well known. Recently, the necessity for an applicant to admit prior art for an Examiner to utilize the disclosure by prior art has been set forth in Riverwood International Corporation v. R.A. Jones & Co., Inc., 324 F.3d 1346, 66 USPQ2d 1331 (CAFC March 31, 2003).

Even if Assumed Prior Art, the Disclosure Fails to Anticipate or Suggest

The present invention pertains to a telephone line network and a power line network that can be integrated without using a router of high cost. The invention is typically embodied by claim 1, which sets forth:

1. A network infrastructure integrated system comprising:
 - a telephone line network to which a first plurality of Home Information Machines are connected;
 - a power line network to which a second plurality of Home Information Machines are connected;
 - a gateway system connected with one of the telephone line network and the power line network for converting communication protocols of the telephone line network or power line network and an external network and transferring data signals between the telephone line network or power line network and the external network; and
 - a network bridge connected between the telephone line network and the power line network for enabling the first and second pluralities of Home Information Machines to communicate data

signals with each other between the telephone line network and the power line network.

The conventional art described in the specification pertains to technology dependent upon an expensive router. The conventional art at page 4, lines 15-18 describes: "The router 50 includes a PNA modem 30 and a PLC modem 70, and the PNA modem 30 included in the router 50 demodulates the data signal and transfers it to the PLC modem 70. The PLC modem 70 in the router 50 modulates the data signal for transmission without noise in the signal on the power lines."

The conventional art router includes a PNA modem and a PLC modem to share respective applications and data with each other.

The present invention, in contrast, has a network bridge 100 that does not need the addition of a gateway server or PLC modem. As a result, the invention needs no router.

For example, the passage at page 8, line 24 to page 9, line 24 of the specification describes a first impedance matching circuit 105 connected to the DC blocking circuit 104 and matching a load impedance of the data signals with an impedance value of the PNA modem 30 which is set earlier, and a second impedance matching circuit 108 connected to the AC blocking circuit 109 and matching a load impedance of the data signals with the set impedance value of the PNA modem. That is, the network bridge 100 includes only PNA modems.

As a result, the conventional art discussed in the specification is fundamentally different from the claimed invention. The conventional art as discussed the specification therefore fails to anticipate or suggest a claimed embodiment of the invention.

Combining Secondary References Fails to Suggest

In turning to Bullock to reject claims 2-5, the Examiner admits to failings of the conventional art discussed in the specification. At page 5, lines 11-15 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the conventional art discussed in the specification:

...differs from the claimed invention in not specifically teaching the power line network including PNA modems each having a coupler for connecting to a power line so that the second plurality of home information machines (80A to 80N) connect to the power line network each including a PNA modem having a coupler for connecting to the power line.

Bullock discusses a base unit 110 (or PLC modem) which is connected with the power lines, standard modem 102 (or PNA modem) which is connected with the computer 101, and an extension unit (or PLC modem and gateway server) which is for data transfer over the AC power lines.

Bullock, however, fails to address the inability of the conventional art to disclose or suggest a network infrastructure integrated system that does not require a router.

In turning to Sanderson to reject claims 6-12, the Examiner admits the failings of the conventional art, stating at page 6, lines 5-9 that the conventional art:

... differs from the claimed invention in not specifically teaching the router including input protection means for protecting internal circuitry and removing unwanted electrical components of data signal flowing through the router, and matching means connected to the input means for matching impedance of the data signal and output means connected to the matching means for filtering the data signal.

The Examiner turns to Sanderson to allege these teachings. However, Sanderson fails to address the inability of the conventional art discussed in the specification to disclose or suggest a network bridge that does not require the addition of a gateway server or PLC modem.

Further, neither Bullock nor Sanderson addresses the inability for the specification to be used to allege prior art without an admission of prior art.

Thus the Applicants' own disclosure fails to anticipate the invention as set forth in claim 1. Claims dependent upon claim 1 are patentable for at least the above reasons. Bullock combined with the Applicants' own disclosure fails to render claims 2-5 *prima facie* obvious. Sanderson combined with the Applicants' own disclosure fails to render claims 6-12 *prima facie* obvious.

These rejections are accordingly overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

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Prior Art Cited by the Examiner

The prior art made of record but not relied upon by the Examiner shows the status of the conventional art that the invention supercedes. Additional remarks are accordingly not necessary.

Foreign Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged the claim for foreign priority.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

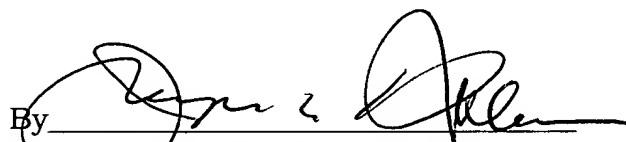
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s): Corrected Figures 1 and 2

(Rev. 09/30/03)